



FINANCIAL AID DEVELOPMENTS

By Kim Slote, policy analyst

FEDERAL PELL GRANT

The USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) March 1, 2016: Operational Implementation Guidance – Federal Student Aid’s Implementation of 2016-2017 Federal Pell Grant Payment and Disbursement Schedules. This announcement covers important information about system, Web and software modifications that are being made to reflect the 2016-2017 Federal Pell Grant payment and disbursement schedules. There will be changes implemented with the Central Processing System, the ISIR Analysis Tool, the Common Origination and Disbursement System and the EDExpress for Windows software. Anticipated completion dates for the updates and the operational impact to those systems is outlined in the announcement.

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE March 2, 2016: First Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance Payments for 2015-2016 Award Year. The announcement explains which students a school is eligible to receive ACA payments for and indicates the funds may only be used to defray the costs of administering the Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Work-Study and Federal Perkins Loan programs. The USDE began processing ACA payments for all schools on Feb. 29, 2016, and includes those

records processed by the COD System beginning July 1, 2015. Funds for ACA payments were deposited into school bank accounts. Contact information is provided for those schools that need assistance regarding their ACA payments.

LOAN SERVICING

On March 2, 2016, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): Loan Servicing Information-First Period 2015-2016 Performance Metrics and Second Period 2015-2016 Allocation Information. This announcement provides the results for servicer performance measured semi-annually in the areas of customer satisfaction and default prevention. Each servicer’s allocation of future loan volume is determined by these results when applicable. Links to the electronic announcement include the following:

- Results for Quarter Ending Sep. 30, 2015
- Results for Quarter Ending Dec. 31, 2015 and allocations for Second Period 2015-2016
- Prior metric and allocation data

DUNS NUMBER REGISTRATION

The USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) March 8, 2016: Action



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Required: Annual DUNS Number Registration Renewal with System for Award Management (SAM) Database. Schools are reminded in this announcement that they must complete registration confirmation of their DUNS number annually. The G5 Website verifies the Data Universal Numbering System number in the SAM Website before carrying out any administrative actions involving a DUNS number. Schools must complete annual confirmation of their DUNS number to prevent delays with receipt of Title IV program funds. The URL for the SAM Website is <https://www.sam.gov>. The announcement includes additional information about annual renewal requirements.

TOTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY DISCHARGE

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE March 8, 2016: TPD Discharge Information – Guaranty Agency Assignment Procedures (March 2016). Procedures are provided in this announcement for Federal Family Education Loan Program guaranty agencies to follow when they submit all TPD discharge assignments to the Nelnet TPD servicer. All guidance was reposted from the [June 2013](#) electronic announcement to keep everything in one place, although Appendix I and

Appendix II are the only documents that have been updated.

FORMS

Dear Colleague Letter [GEN-16-06](#) was published by the USDE March 11, 2016: Approval of General Forbearance Request Form for the Direct Loan, FFEL and Perkins Loan Programs. A revised General Forbearance Request form has been approved for the Direct Loan, FFEL and Perkins Loan Programs. The new form can be distributed immediately and only the new form may be distributed after July 1, 2016. Printing instructions and imaging tips are included in the announcement.

CAMPUS-BASED PROGRAMS

On March 14, 2016, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): Supporting Documentation for Assignments of Federal Perkins Loans. To help streamline the Federal Perkins Loan process for schools, Federal Student Aid has developed a chart that provides information on necessary loan documentation to be included with Federal Perkins Loans assigned to the USDE. Categorized by loan status, the chart has three columns of acceptable supporting documentation such as:

- Required documentation



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- Alternatives to required documentation
- Extenuating circumstances documentation

The Federal Perkins Loan Program Assignment and Liquidation User Guide is currently being updated and will be released at a later date.

The USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) March 17, 2016: Federal Perkins Loan Program Status of Default as of June 30, 2015 (Orange Book). [The Orange Book](#) is a report that provides a cohort default rate for each school that participated in the Federal Perkins Loan Program during the 2014-2015 Award Year. Information in the report is based on data provided by schools in the Fiscal Operations Report for 2014-2015 and Application to Participate for 2016-2017. Schools listed on the report are organized alphabetically by state or territory.

On March 22, 2016, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): Draft 2017-2018 FISAP, Instructions and Technical Reference. A draft version of the Fiscal Operations Report for 2015-2016 and Application to Participate for 2017-2018 in the Campus-Based programs is attached to this announcement. The FISAP is currently under revision, with the Final 2017-2018

FISAP to be made available in Aug. 2016. Sep. 30, 2016, is the due date for the submission of the 2017-2018 FISAP. Changes being made to the FISAP instructions are included in the announcement.

A [Federal Register Notice](#) was issued by the USDE March 24, 2016: Comment Request, Federal Perkins Loan Program Regulations. The USDE is requesting comments on a proposed revision of an existing information collection. Comments must be submitted on or before May 23, 2016.

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE March 28, 2016: 2016-2017 Final Funding Authorizations for the Campus-Based Programs. The final 2016-2017 Campus-Based programs funding worksheets and the 2016-2017 Statement of Account for each of the Campus-Based programs were posted to the [eCampus-Based website](#) April 1, 2016. Important information related to the final funding authorizations is provided in the electronic announcement to include the following:

- How the Campus-Based Awards for a School are Determined
- Returning more than 10 percent of the 2014-2015 Allocation for one of the Campus-Based Programs Affects a School's 2016-2017 Allocation



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- Notification of 2016-2017 Campus-Based Allocations
- Reallocation of Additional Campus-Based Funds for the 2016-2017 Award Year
- “Total Authorized Level of Expenditure” or “LOE” for the Federal Perkins Loan Program

FSA DATA CENTER

On March 17, 2016, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): Federal Student Aid Posts Updated Reports to FSA Data Center. The [FSA Data Center](#) is a centralized online source for Federal Student Aid data. The application, loan, grant and portfolio reports are updated by Federal Student Aid quarterly. The reports recently posted reflect activity as of Dec. 31, 2015. The announcement outlines the reports available, along with several key findings based on those reports.

NACIQI

The USDE issued a [Federal Register Notice](#) March 18, 2016: National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) Meeting. This notice outlines the agenda for the June 22-24, 2016, meeting of the NACIQI. It also provides information to the public about submitting written comments and requests to

make oral comments at the meeting. The location of the meeting will be published in the Federal Register and on the USDE’s website by May 23, 2016. The NACIQI will be reviewing accrediting agencies and State approval agencies for Secretarial recognition. A list of the agencies requesting recognition is provided in the Federal Register identifying the scope of recognition being requested.

NSLDS

NSLDS [Newsletter 52](#) was published by the USDE March 22, 2016: Newsletter 52: Enhancements to Student Eligibility and Payment/Repayment Data on NSLDS Professional Access Website. Recent enhancements to the National Student Loan Data System and the [NSLDS Professional Access](#) website are outlined in this newsletter. Changes include:

- Enhancements to Student Eligibility
 - Inclusion of the Reaffirmation Indicator
 - Updates to the Unusual Enrollment History (UEH)
- Payment/Repayment Data on NSLDS Professional Access Website
 - Payment/Repayment Data on Loan Detail Page
 - Revised Pay As You Earn (REPAYE) Codes



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The USDE published NSLDS [Newsletter 53](#) March 24, 2016: Newsletter 53: NSLDS Enhancements for Perkins Reporting, Enrollment Reporting and Borrower Defense. The newsletter describes recent enhancements to NSLDS and the [NSLDS Professional Access](#) Website. Changes include:

- Perkins Spreadsheet Submittal
- Enrollment Reporting Enhancements
 - Availability of Roster Reset Functionality
 - Late Enrollment Certifications Report
- Borrower Defense Discharge Code.

VERIFICATION

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE March 23, 2016: 2016-2017 FAFSA Verification-IRS Tax Return Transcript Matrix. The 2016-2017 FAFSA Verification-IRS Tax Return Transcript Matrix attached to this announcement will assist financial aid administrators to map 2015 IRS Tax Return Transcript information to FAFSA/ISIR data. The items provided on the matrix are outlined in the announcement.

HEAL PROGRAM

On March 29, 2016, the USDE issued a [Federal Register Notice](#): Comment Request, Health Education Assistance Loan (HEAL)

Program Regulations. The USDE is requesting comments on a proposed extension of an existing information collection. Comments must be submitted on or before May 31, 2016.

FAFSA

The USDE issued a [Federal Register Notice](#) March 29, 2016: Comment Request: 2017-2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The USDE is requesting comments on a proposed revision of an existing information collection. Comments must be submitted on or before May 31, 2016.

REFERENCE GUIDE

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE March 30, 2016: Federal Perkins Loan Assignment and Liquidation Guide Available on the IFAP Website. Information is provided about the assignment process and the required processes for liquidation of a school's Federal Perkins Loan portfolio and Perkins Loan Revolving Fund when participation is ended by a school. The guide can be found on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals Website under the Campus-Based Processing Information link in the Processing Resources box.